



Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

May 23, 2011

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I am writing you today because I have heard that the merger with T-Mobile will give AT&T the necessary wireless spectrum to extend its network and reach many more people with high-speed broadband service. This would be a good thing for Alabama, where as you know recent storms have left many people without the infrastructure that we once had.

The beauty with wireless broadband service is that you can use a smartphone or a laptop from anywhere you have a signal – even if you do not have electricity. Many people in the storm-ravaged areas of our state will need to be on the site of the damage to deal with the cleanup and the restoration. Improving access and availability would make their work much easier.

Of course, there are many other reasons beyond disaster recovery to have access to the latest high-speed wireless service. As someone who supports the best interests of the entertainment industry, specifically songwriters, I believe this merger would enhance content protection, promote efficiency in the music market, and increase music quality and access for consumers.

In today's world, one requires access to the Internet. Government agencies are assuming that people have it to register for benefits or renew licenses. Schools assume that students can go online to do research. Family members stay in touch and share photographs over the Internet, and many use it for entertainment, from listening to music to streaming their favorite TV shows. It really lets you work or play from anywhere. And it can actually be easier to bring wireless service to rural areas than a wired system.

I hope you will do whatever you can to encourage companies to build wireless systems that will reach more people with higher speeds. This proposal from AT&T is just the kind of investment we need, and I think it should be approved.

Thank you,

Dennis Kahler
Coordinator, Alabama Songwriter's Guild

CC:
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell

Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker